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Jamie Black, a Winnipeg artist behind an art installation on Philosopher's Walk, is highlighting the plight of missing and murdered Indigenous women.
EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

'VOICES ARE GOING TO BE HEARD'

REDress Project delivers a powerful message to U of T's campus

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FEDERAL BUDGET

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE WANT (AND WANT CUT) MAY SURPRISE YOU

COLUMNIST: THIS IS TRUDEAU'S CHANCE TO PUSH INNOVATION, BUT ...

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NIAGARA MANHUNT OVER 7-YEAR-OLD'S DEATH ENDS IN CAPTURE

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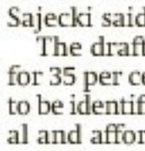
Market for the middle class

HOUSING

Mississauga trying to fire up the 'economic engine'



May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Mind the gap in the middle.

That's the message behind an ambitious new 40-point plan from the city of Mississauga to tackle housing affordability.

Faced with high rents, a low vacancy rate, and soaring real estate prices, the city has developed a housing strategy aimed at making sure there's still room for middle-income households in the growing city.

"We're increasingly seeing the middle class being shut out of affordable housing'," said Ed Sajecki, commissioner of planning and building for the city of Mississauga.

Professionals like nurses, teachers, firefighters and cops are no longer able to afford homes in the city, he said, and this jeopardizes the "economic engine" of the community, long considered a cheaper option to Toronto.

"If we're going to continue to be the kind of prosperous region we have to have a place for our workers to live in," Sajecki said.

The draft plan sets a target for 35 per cent of new housing to be identified for market rental and affordable ownership.

It lays out various ways to get there, including implementing a policy that surplus city lands be made first available for affordable housing producers at market value, and encouraging second units on homes.

Sajecki acknowledged the city is just "one of many players" and calls for other levels of government to step up to the plate when it comes to housing.

Toronto's housing strategy was developed in 2009. The city also has an ongoing "Open Door" program, and has continued to lobby for more social housing funds.

The Absolute Towers in Mississauga, where rising prices have put many homes out of reach for buyers over the last few years.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

HOUSING STRATEGY AND STATS

Mississauga's new housing strategy is designed for "middle" income earners, which is defined as households making between $55,000 and $100,000 a year.

About one in three households in the city spend more than 30 per cent of their income on housing costs, according to research done by the city. Anything over that benchmark is generally considered unaffordable.

Housing by the numbers

- Average rent in Mississauga is **$1,220**, up from $1,182 in fall 2015 CANADIAN MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION
- Average home price in Mississauga is **$714,922** in February 2017 MISSISSAUGA REAL ESTATE BOARD
- Average home price in Mississauga in 2010 was about **$360,000** MISSISSAUGA REAL ESTATE BOARD
- Mississauga vacancy rate: **1.4 per cent** CANADIAN MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

Toronto DIGEST

Judge reserves LRT decision
Metrolinx and Bombardier squared off in court Tuesday to settle a dispute over whether the transit agency should be allowed out of its $770-million contract for light rail vehicles.

After roughly seven hours of arguments, the judge said it would likely take more than a week to render a verdict.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Subway operator assaulted
The TTC's largest union says the transit authority is putting the safety of its employees at risk after a subway operator was assaulted Friday evening at Dundas West Station.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dash cam leads to charges
Police say dash camera video has led to charges against a Brampton man who allegedly threatened another driver with a machete.

Police say a man approached the alleged victim's car brandishing a machete, struck the car with the machete and threatened to kill the driver.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ministers head to N.Y.
Economic Development Minister Brad Duguid and International Trade Minister Michael Chan are heading to New York state to urge legislators to exempt Canada from a Buy American policy it plans to introduce, warning that it could lead to trouble on both sides of the border.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Unpredictable weather: it's time to get used to it

WEATHER

Confusing conditions are here to stay, say experts

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

For a while on Tuesday spring had arrived, but the warmth was fleeting. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Tuesday was one of the most confusing days of the year, at least in terms of how to dress for the weather. Temperatures moved from a balmy 12 C in the afternoon to minus 12 C in the evening with a windchill of -22 C overnight.

But rollercoaster conditions are the new normal, according to a new report on global climate from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The report, released Tuesday, confirms that 2016 was the hottest year on record and predicts more extreme and unusual weather for 2017.

"Even without a strong El Niño in 2017, we are seeing other remarkable changes across the planet that are challenging the limits of our understanding of the climate system," said World Climate Research Programme Director David Carlson.

"We are now in truly uncharted territory."

According to the report, there has been "the polar equivalent of a heat wave" with Atlantic storms repeatedly driving warm air into the Arctic, making for a balmy Canadian winter.

Changes in the Arctic impact everywhere, changing oceanic and atmospheric patterns.

NEW RECORD

The WMO report confirms 2016 was the warmest year on record, –1.1 °C above the pre-industrial period, and 0.06 °C above the previous 2015 record.

Environment Canada meteorologist Geoff Coulson said the unusual stretches of warm winter days result from warmer air masses from the U.S. South.

"That battle is going on literally today," he said Tuesday morning. "The warm air wins during the day, the cold air's going to win tonight."

Which means we might have to get used to switching between parkas and cardigans.

"Certainly we whet a lot of people's appetites with 16 C in February, where people thought, OK spring is here, and then March came with a thud," Coulson said.

POLITICS

Tory replies in cheat sheet furor

Facing public backlash and questions from opposing and allied councillors, Mayor John Tory says lack of communication with staff is to blame for the discrepancy between his recent votes and instructions from his office.

Torstar News Service earlier reported that the mayor voted in favour of gender equity in city budgeting and adding a staff position to help resettle refugees during a February meeting while a cheat sheet circulated by his office instructed friendly councillors to do the opposite.

"I try to be honest at all times without exception," Tory told Torstar News Service.

"There was no communication with my staff at all on how I was intending to vote on that and there was no communication between them and me as to how they were telling other people that they should consider voting."

He said the cheat sheets used by his office during some meetings to tell councillors how to vote are "not meant to instruct anybody as to how to vote."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Winnipeg artist Jaime Black on Monday with her REDress art installation on Philosopher's Walk that highlights the plight of murdered indigenous women. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Artist addresses national problem

INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Art installation aims to spark discussions on missing women

Sarah-Joyce Battersby
Metro | Toronto

Dangling in the breeze, red dresses hang empty in downtown Toronto as a stark reminder of the over 1,200 cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women in this country.

The dresses, almost 120 of them, adorn trees and perches at six spots on the University of Toronto's St. George campus, including Philosopher's Walk, Hart House Circle and outside First Nations House.

Winnipeg-based Métis artist Jaime Black hung the garments last week, part of the most recent iteration of her ongoing REDress Project. It's the first time Black has mounted the work in Toronto, and the largest iteration in the project's history.

The dresses first appeared in 2010 on the University of Winnipeg campus and have since graced the halls of the Human Rights Museum and a memorial for slain Winnipeg girl Tina Fontaine.

But it's spaces like the open urban campus that Black prefers. "(It creates) space to speak about what Indigenous women are facing in a really public forum," she told Metro.

The conversations sparked by the striking site are the first step for a society trying to reconcile its colonial history, Black said, pointing out that though strides have been made Indigenous women still face a disproportionate rate of violence.

The installation, in place until Friday, comes just weeks before Canada's murdered and missing Indigenous women inquiry begins hearing from victims' families. The Globe and Mail revealed Monday that just 90 names are in its database, despite the RCMP identifying nearly 1,200 in a 2014 report.

That means Black has hung more dresses than are on the national inquiry's list.

Still, she remains optimistic, citing grassroots movements fighting to reclaim land and push back against injustice.

"This could be a year where resistance and resilience and the strength of the people is going to come into the forefront of the conversation," she said. "People's voices are going to be heard in an unprecedented way."

PAVING CONTRACTS

Police to probe rigging report

City staff have called in the police after Toronto's auditor general uncovered suspected examples of outside contractors bid-rigging on city paving jobs to drive the price up.

Auditor General Beverly Romeo-Beehler undertook her audit of paving contracts — awarded between January 2010 to June 2015 — to ensure the city's tendering process was fair and competitive and after a previous audit raised concerns.

During the time period, the city awarded 55 road resurfacing contracts worth $168 million. The majority of that work is performed by private contractors who get it through the city's competitive bidding process.

Auditor General Beverly Romeo-Beehler warns of possible problems with paving contracts. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Given the significant amount spent on construction contracts, they can be a prime target for corruption and collusion," says a summary document released Tuesday alongside the auditor's 51-page report.

The report suggested that top bidders could be colluding with lower bidders to boost the price and then a low-bidder would be hired as a subcontractor.

The report does not name the companies involved.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

More green for the environment

They're too young to vote but high schoolers know what they want to see in Canada's budget. That's according to a report from CIVIX Canada, a non-profit that promotes civic engagement among young Canadians. Between November and March, the group surveyed more than 7,000 students from 450 schools across the country, held workshops about government and public policy and collected their ideas about budget priorities. Metro went through the report to bring you the highlights:

GILBERT NGABO METRO

MORE OF

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

61% 9%

Sixty-one per cent of respondents want to see increased funding for environmental programs. CIVIX's content director Dan Allan said it's both a reflection of what they encounter frequently in the news and a good sign that they're concerned about climate change.

HEALTH CARE TRANSFERS

47% 6%

INFRASTRUCTURE

36% 10%

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION TRANSFERS

58% 9%

About 58 per cent would increase spending for post-secondary education, an indication of what's important for them as they continue their education journey.

EMPLOYMENT, EI & SKILLS TRAINING

43% 8%

INNOVATION R/D

45% 6%

LESS OF

INDIGENOUS YOUTH/ COMMUNITIES

42% 18%

While six per cent of respondents identified as Indigenous, 18 per cent of respondents suggested funding cuts for programs supporting Indigenous youth and communities.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

32% 16%

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

45% 10%

ARTS & CULTURE

14% 32%

This category has always ranked among the lowest priorities for budget increases in CIVIX's surveys, Allan said. About 32 per cent would like to see funding cuts here, although 54 per cent would like it to remain the same.

Percentage who said spending should be **increased**

Percentage who said spending should be **decreased**

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Trump, tighter rules behind refugee surge

IMMIGRATION

Experts say xenophobic policies push many north

There were four times more asylum claimants arriving at land border crossings than at airports in the first two months of 2017, new Canadian data shows.

In January and February, a total of 525 air travellers — 400 in Ontario, 90 in Quebec, 35 in British Columbia and nine in Alberta — sought asylum upon arrival at airports, said the Canada Border Services Agency.

By contrast, 2,145 people crossed at official land border ports of entry and made refugee claims during the same period, including 1,085 in Quebec, 905 in Ontario, 80 in Manitoba, and 35 each in Alberta and British Columbia.

In addition to the migrants who made it through the border either legally or illegally and later filed what are known as "inland" claims, Canada received claims from a total of 5,520 refugees in the two months — a 48 per cent increase from the same period a year ago. The numbers of claimants arriving at land border crossings and airports for the same period of 2016 were not immediately available.

An asylum claimant and her daughters cross the border into Quebec from the United States earlier this month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Given Canada's geographical isolation and the popularity of the U.S. as a destination for migrants, experts say, Ottawa historically received more refugees by air than at land borders.

Experts say the sudden rise can be attributed to the xenophobic policies of Donald Trump's administration as well as Canada's implementation of the new electronic travel authorization that applies also to visa-exempt air passengers.

"(The) airport was the easiest way, but because of the visa requirements, it is becoming more difficult to travel here by air than by land, and it is easier to get a visa to the U.S. than to Canada," said Janet Dench of the Canadian Council for Refugees.

Dench said that in years past, the council received monthly statistics from the Immigration Department on asylum claims, before the former Conservative government stopped providing the information in 2010.

Dench cautioned that it is hard to make out any trend and explain the surge in land border claims based on two months of statistics because there could be other factors at play.

"It could be just a question of resource availability. The inland office may have fewer resources and can't give out as many appointments to take in asylum claims," Dench explained.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GOVERNMENT

Advocates applaud report on violence

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Advocates are applauding a parliamentary report aimed at reducing domestic violence and sexual assault.

Tabled Monday by the House committee on the Status of Women, the report calls for better training for police and judges, better data on the issue and more assault centres on university campuses.

In all, it contains 45 recommendations — the committee looked at the issue on university campuses, on the internet and in the justice system.

Pam Damoff, Liberal MP for Oakville North-Burlington and vice-chair of the committee, said sexual violence is a major issue with a lot of problems to solve.

Man accused of killing his stepson captured by police

The search is over for an Ontario man accused of fatally injuring his seven-year-old stepson moments before attempting to kill a local bank employee.

Justin Kuijer

Niagara police Chief Jeff McGuire says 43-year-old Justin Kuijer was arrested by provincial police Tuesday in northern Ontario.

McGuire says the arrest in Kenora, Ont., came after a tip from a citizen.

A Canada-wide arrest warrant was issued Monday for Kuijer on charges of second-degree murder in the death of seven-year-old Nathan Dumas, as well as the attempted murder of a woman working at a local RBC branch.

Police alleged that Kuijer had been on the run in his ex-girlfriend's van ever since the two grisly scenes unfolded on Friday. Police say he was arrested without incident.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Few Liberal measures for the middle class have done much for the middle class.

It would be nice if Wednesday's budget offered some real change for Canadians

ANALYSIS

Paul Wells
Torstar News Service

Wednesday's budget will be about the middle class and innovation. Maybe it'll even be helpful! That would be nice. Unfortunately, the Trudeau government's handling of both files so far has left them in something close to a shambles.

I wrote after Social Development Minister Jean-Yves Duclos gave a presentation about 'The State of the Middle Class.' I was probably too kind.

When a tenured academic turned senior cabinet minister delivers a presentation on the middle class that (a) never defines the term "middle class"; (b) never depicts the effects of the government's actions to date on the plight of the middle class, however you want to define it; (c) offers no hint about future efforts to help the middle class — well, that's a fiasco.

The Liberals used to promise that Canadians would be able to track their own progress, using large numbers of publicly available indicators, on marvellous websites that would be part of a governing philosophy called "deliverology." These days, we get Duclos telling us how polls say we feel.

But let no one criticize any Liberal emphasis on feelings. Bloomberg put the question to Bill Morneau, the finance minister, this week, and he was staunch in defending a politics of mood.

"We look at what's gone on around the world" (translator's note: this is every western politician's preferred euphemism for the election of Donald Trump) "is there anybody who questions that we should be focused on how people feel?" Morneau asked. "What are the outcomes if we don't? So I think we're going to stay on that message."

OK then. I feel worried when I read Duclos's former colleague, the Université Laval economist Stephen Gordon, pointing out in the National Post what the NDP has been saying all along: that few Liberal measures for the middle class have done much for the middle class. Take what Justin Trudeau likes to call his "middle-class tax cut." Says Gordon: "The tax cut for the median tax filer — someone reporting total income somewhere around $45,000 — is either negligible or non-existent." But if you make triple that income, you get the maximum tax benefit.

I feel like maybe we should move on to innovation. This government is the first with a minister for innovation! He's Navdeep Bains. He frequently posts photos of his meetings on Twitter, with the hashtag "#innovation."

A year and a half after he became the minister for #innovation, it's not clear what Bains's plans are. It's pretty clear that within the government he has less than complete control over #innovation.

Whatever Bains proposes, it will have company. Kevin Page, the former Parliamentary Budget Officer who now runs a policy shop at the University of Ottawa, found that there are already 147 programs and tax credits, worth a combined $22.6 billion, designed to spur #innovation. That's right now. Today. Already. The accumulated detritus of every former government.

Things to look for in budget

The Trudeau government will table the second budget of its mandate Wednesday. Here are three things to look for:

1. Will Ottawa re-introduce a contingency reserve?
With so many unknowns tied to potential policy moves in the U.S. on taxes and trade, some economists predict the government will re-introduce a contingency reserve to provide a cushion for Canada's books.

2. What will be the scope of the tax-expenditure review?
Sources say the review process is ongoing, meaning the budget will not include the full range of tax changes. However, it is expected to contain at least a few smaller tax adjustments.

3. How will the budget address gender gaps?
Morneau has promised to run his budget through a gender-based analysis. This year's analysis is expected to examine how some big budget themes will affect genders.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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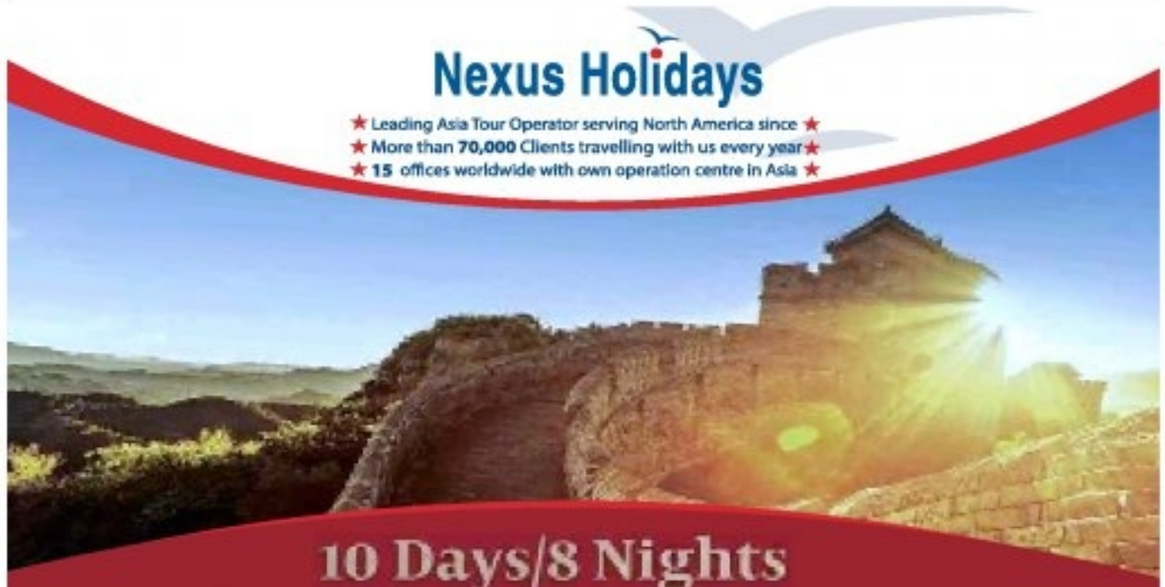

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Laptop ban questioned

AIR TRAVEL

Reasons for latest change will likely never be public

U.S. and British governments are barring passengers on some flights from Middle Eastern and North African countries from bringing laptops and other devices in carry-ons. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You can thank Richard Reid, a.k.a. the failed "shoe bomber," every time you remove your footwear at airport security checks. The "underwear bomber" is why you have to rub your pants and get your palms swabbed for explosive residue. Limited liquid? A failed 2006 transatlantic aircraft plot.

But passengers, irate passengers, who will soon be barred from bringing laptops on their lengthy flights to the U.S. or U.K., will probably not be given a simple answer as to why. Flights to Canada may also soon be affected.

News of the surprise travel restriction began spreading Monday night and came into effect in the U.S. early Tuesday. Passengers travelling direct from eight mainly Middle Eastern countries to the U.S. will be forbidden from carrying on electronics larger than a cellphone. Airlines were told they have 96 hours to comply. By Tuesday afternoon, Britain said they were implementing similar restrictions on six countries in North Africa and the Middle East.

Federal Transport Minister Marc Garneau also said Tuesday that Canada may follow the lead of the U.S. and Britain in relation to unspecified security threats.

According to U.S. reports, the new measure is not based on any specific threat or being implemented as one of the reactive security measures that have become common in the past 15 years after failed attacks.

Which leaves many to ask not only why but what are the actual security benefits?

"We don't know what the cause is. We don't know what the reason is. We don't know what is going on," said Bruce Schneier, a security technologist and fellow at Berkman Center.

As the story spread, so did the skepticism. A New York Times report Tuesday stated that the new measure "was not based on any specific or credible threat of an imminent attack."

The TSA statement was vague, saying that the measure was based on "evaluated intelligence."

The only known attack using a laptop occurred over a year ago in Mogadishu. The East African Al Qaeda affiliate, Al Shabab, claimed responsibility for the bomb on board a Daallo Airlines flight, which blew a hole in the fuselage, sucking out the suspected bomber. The passenger jet was forced to make an emergency landing, but none of the other passengers were injured.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN CANADA

If Ottawa does not issue a similar ban, Canadian airports are bound to get busier as passengers decide to bypass the hassle of U.S. travel. Emirates Airlines and Turkish and EgyptAir, among other airliners have frequent direct flights to Canadian cities.

FINANCES

Wealthy people ask to pay more in taxes

Some of the wealthiest New Yorkers are asking the state to raise their taxes.

Eighty people including George Soros, Steven Rockefeller and Abigail Disney wrote to lawmakers and Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo saying they and other top earners should pay more to support schools, roads, bridges and programs to help poor and homeless residents of the state.

"Now is the time to invest in the long-term economic viability of New York," the letter reads. "We need to invest in pathways out of poverty and up the economic ladder for all of our fellow citizens, including strong public education from pre-K to college. And, we need to invest in the fragile bridges, tunnels, waterlines, public buildings, and roads that we all depend on."

George Soros THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLOBAL DIGEST

'Piggy bank' turtle dies
Tourists used to toss coins at a green sea turtle that lived in a pond in Thailand, wishing for luck and longevity. But swallowing the tidbits turned out to be a death sentence, as after having nearly a thousand coins removed from its stomach two weeks ago, the turtle died Tuesday. AP

Bumblebee joins endangered species
The rusty patched bumblebee on Tuesday became the first officially endangered bee species in the continental U.S. Its listing means the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will devise a plan for returning the imperiled bee to "a healthy and secure condition." AP

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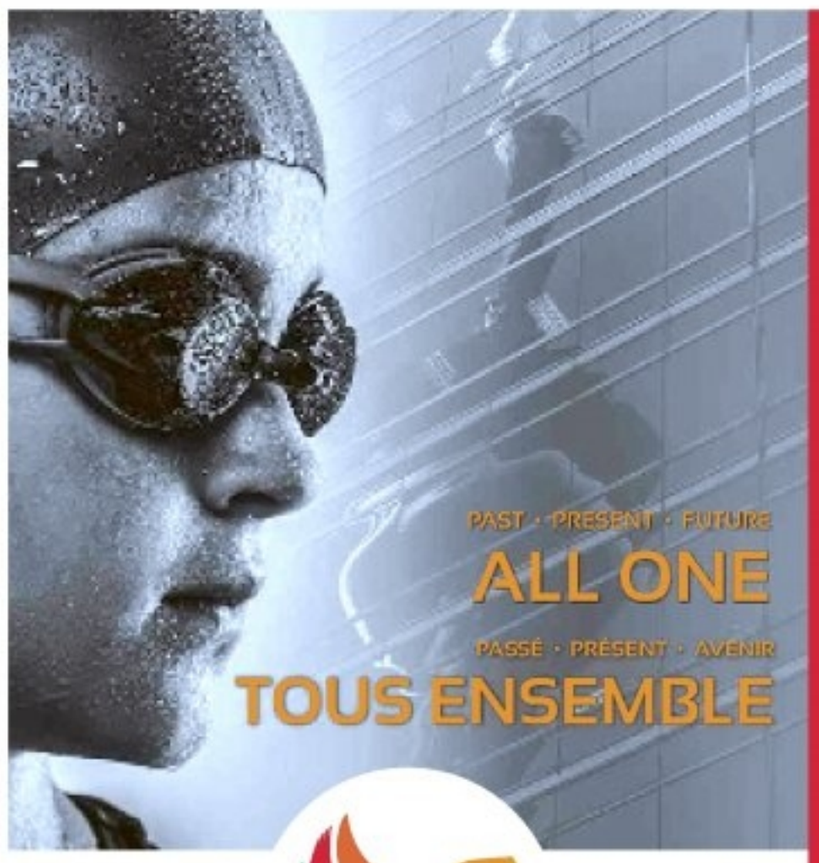

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, March 22, 2017

JESSICA ALLEN ON CONSPIRACY THEORIES

‘I obviously don’t believe in conspiracy theories — OK, except for this one really awesome one.’

Here is a truncated list of things that, if you believe them, will make me take you less seriously: the Earth is flat, vaccinations are part of a government plot, and Barack Obama wire-tapped Trump Tower.

Conspiracy theories conform to fit different personal ideologies: look at the permutations of 9/11 theories, ranging from anti-Semitic to anti-New World Order down to versions that confirm people’s desires to live in a world where Nostradamus was right about everything.

We’re predisposed to believe what we want to believe; only in the past, you had to work to confirm those beliefs — like reading all 888 pages of the Warren Report. Now, you just have to search, click, and watch.

Except for me, because I obviously don’t believe in conspiracy theories — OK, except for this one really awesome one: Donald Trump is in cahoots with a Russian oligarch who goes by the nickname “the fertilizer king.”

Dmitry Rybolovlev, who made his billions selling potash, was tied up in the most expensive divorce in modern history, bought a house from Will Smith, the Greek island where Jackie Onassis wed Aristotle, and an estate in Palm Beach, Florida — from Trump.

I know all of this because I’ve fallen down a Rybolovlev rabbit hole, for which I blame Rachel Maddow. The MSNBC host has been trying to connect the dots between Trump, Rybolovlev, and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross.

I feel pretty confident that I’m becoming my worst nightmare.

So Shaq is pretty sure the Earth is flat. Who among us can resist a juicy conspiracy theory? asks Jessica Allen. AP

Long story short, as told by Maddow: Trump sold the Palm Beach mansion to the Russian for $50 million (U.S.) more than he’d paid for it just four years earlier. The sale came as Rybolovlev was embroiled in big bucks divorce proceedings, and Trump owed millions to Deutsche Bank, which was fined for money laundering some $10 billion dollars, some of which belonged to Putin family members. When the CEO of Deutsche bank stepped down post scandal, he went to the Bank of Cyprus. Guess who once owned a stake in the Bank of Cyprus? Rybolovlev. Guess who was once vice chairman of the Bank of Cyprus? Wilbur Ross.

Boom!

But this line of logic led Sonny Bunch in a Washington Post column to compare Maddow to the Oliver Stone character X, played by Kiefer Sutherland, in 1991 film JFK. “This is how conspiracy theorists operate,” he said. “Bury your opponent in an avalanche of facts and suggest there’s some secret connecting them all together, a Rosetta Stone you’re on the verge of deciphering.”

If Maddow is X, then I am the cartoonist, played by Jake Gyllenhaal in David Fincher’s 2007 thriller Zodiac, who became an amateur detective trying to crack one of the most notorious serial killer cases ever. I spent all of Sunday drawing diagrams and pie charts trying to piece this Russian doll of a puzzle together. Simon watched me, his partner of 13 years who will smugly cite a study in polite conversation on how those who believe in conspiracies are more likely to score lower in intelligence tests, and asked: *Who are you?*

I don’t know, but I feel pretty confident that I’m becoming my worst nightmare.

And I can’t stop.

I *won’t* stop — because there are reports that Rybolovlev’s private plane has landed at the same time and place as Trump’s on at least four occasions (Thanks, crooksandliars.com. Also, why am I reading crooksandliars.com?)

What if this Russia-Trump FBI dossier legitimately connects the dots because *the truth is out there*? What if the dots pinpoint Trump as the Zodiac killer? What if Shaquille O’Neal is right and the Earth really is flat?

Even though the mansion Trump sold Rybolovlev is called “The House of Friendship,” which even Oliver Stone couldn’t make up, Rachel Maddow and I need to tread carefully.

We are living in a world that doesn’t make sense. Maybe every age says this, but ours has actually been dubbed the “post truth age.”

Jonathan Vance, a University of Western Ontario history professor who specializes in panic and paranoia, theorized to the Canadian Press that “we think that our society is so developed that bad things shouldn’t happen.” So when they do occur — even organically — we seek scapegoats.

“Conspiracy absolves us of responsibility and it absolves us of the fickle hand of fate,” he told the news agency.

There is a glimmer of hope, though, that society is taking up its responsibility. And it comes from an unlikely place: Trump. In his war on the mainstream media, he has, in an ironic twist, boosted the subscription numbers of the “failing” New York Times.

That a man who has successfully twisted a term once used to describe actual fake news and made it a catch-all sobriquet for institutional journalism might inadvertently be the saviour of newspapers in America is almost enough to make you believe anything.

Cue conspiracy.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV’s The Social.

VICKY MOCHAMA

Budget should support private refugee sponsors

The decades-old private sponsorship program is unique in both form and tradition.

But without sufficient money and resources, the agency that manages it is struggling with a backlog of potential sponsors, and leaving Canada in danger of breaking its global promise.

As the federal budget comes down in Ottawa, this should be a top priority.

The global migrant crisis is, with or without our help, finding a way into our country.

While the right and humane thing is for Canada to match rhetoric with policy, there is one more reason to spend the money to clear the backlog: private sponsorship works.

Speaking in front of the Commons immigration committee Monday, Minister Ahmed Hussen said 53 per cent of privately-sponsored refugees had found full-time employment. For government-sponsored refugees that number is 10 per cent, he said.

Supported by the community around them, refugees are finding jobs faster than those assisted mostly by bureaucrats and agencies. The private sponsorship system allows families and community groups to pool their will, compassion and resources to help refugee families.

There are approximately 6,000 such sponsors awaiting approval by the federal government to be matched with a refugee family.

It thus came as a surprise to many families, churches, businesses and community groups to find that in mid-December, the department of citizenship and immigration quietly put a cap of 1,000 on the number of new applicants looking to sponsor Syrian and Iraqi refugees in 2017. Some groups had been prepared to sponsor multiple families.

The change to the private sponsorship system for Syrian and Iraqi refugees was meant to ease the backlog in processing applications. Months later, the backlog persists.

At the same time that the Immigration and Refugee Board is battling a stack of applications, the government has increased the overall number of privately-sponsored refugees that it plans to allow this year from elsewhere in the world. This year, Canada is planning for a high of 19,000 privately sponsored refugees.

The agency anticipates the situation will deteriorate. It foresees as many as 30,000 claims languishing. Wait times, which refugees and their advocates say are already lengthy, will double.

Speaking to The Canadian Press, the chairman of IRB was frank that the board was doing its best but it needed more help, saying, “efficiency has increased significantly, but there is no way we can deal with 30,000 cases when we’re funded for about 17,000.”

Supported and embraced, refugee families are integrating. Canadian communities have shown that they are willing to do their part in the global migrant crisis.

The private sponsorship system is a workable extension of the generosity that we proclaim.

It’s time for Ottawa to put the money in and figure it out.

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Johanna Wright, YouTube vice president of product management

YouTube pledges to stop filtering videos with LGBTQ themes as "restricted"

Why frozen is the new fresh

FOOD TRENDS

Our false idea of 'freshness' causes too much waste

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

When Karyl Agana looks in her home freezer, only one thing belongs to her: A package of salmon.

Like so many self-described foodies, the 28-year-old finance assistant prefers to buy nearly all her fruits, vegetables and meats fresh.

"I enjoy food a lot," she said. "I go out looking for great tasting food. And I make it look pleasing."

Agana aims to make four beautiful meals a week; sourcing ingredients from her Toronto neighbourhood's abundance of grocery stores and ethnic markets.

But inevitably, some of it gets wasted: About once a month, she goes through her fridge and throws away a full grocery bag of spoiled produce. And she's never been one to cook and freeze for later — she said she has nothing against it; it's just not what she grew up doing.

She's far from alone. According to Tammara Soma, who studies food waste at the University of Toronto's Food Systems Lab, Canadians spend a collective $107 billion per year on food that never gets eaten, including the cost of fuel and water.

Why? Because, she said, we're obsessed with a false ideal of freshness.

"We're so detached. We've lost that whole connection between production, processing and consumption," Soma said. "We gravitate toward the idea of freshness to become comfortable with the unknowns. Fresh means healthy, fresh means good."

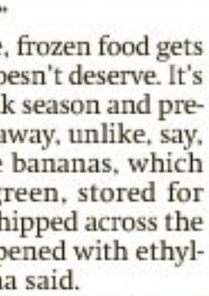
Meanwhile, frozen food gets a bad rap it doesn't deserve. It's picked at peak season and preserved right away, unlike, say, grocery-store bananas, which are picked green, stored for many days, shipped across the world and ripened with ethylene gas, Soma said.

"The idea that they're fresh is quite a paradox," she added. "Fresh is a marketing concept."

And our obsession with it is costing us. The typical North American fridge (unlike European fridges, which are a bit smaller) is an "enabler as a food waste," Soma said. "We stock it up and forget about it. We buy doubles of the same thing. It's a compost bin."

But the freezer is a powerful weapon against waste. Take herbs, for example: Most people buy a huge bunch but only use a few leaves, leaving the rest to rot.

I enjoy food a lot. I go out looking for great tasting food. And I make it look pleasing.
Foodie but non-freezer Karyl Agana



Tammara Soma. CONTRIBUTED

Soma recommends pureeing them with olive oil and freezing them in ice-cube trays for an instant way to perk up pasta dishes and soups.

Sure, frozen fruits and vegetables can be a bit watery and mushy, which grosses some people out. But in things like soups and smoothies, you'll hardly notice.

"The more standards imposed on the food, the more opportunities there are for it to be wasted," Soma said. "It's time to implement a new measure of freshness that's simple: 'Does it smell good? Does it look edible?'"

FREEZE TO THE MAX EXPERT TIPS

Leanne Brown, author of Good and Cheap, a cookbook designed to help people on public assistance make cheap, nutritious meals gives her top tips:

Buy frozen and canned in the off-season
"You might think fresh is best, but for flavour reasons and cost reasons, pay attention to season. Fresh tomatoes right now are basically trash."

Compare prices in-store
Food prices fluctuate. "It would be nice if there were set rules; if canned and frozen were always cheaper. They're often not."

Cook and freeze a staple
"It's as simple as making a big pot of a really inexpensive staple like beans or lentils and having that be the centre of a taco meal, and then as a side another night."

Don't use your freezer as a dumping ground
"I've made too large a portion of something and I'm sick of it. Usually it is going to the freezer to die. Label it when you put it in there."

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ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Panko bread crumbs vs. plain bread crumbs

Are regular bread crumbs and panko bread crumbs the same nutritionally?

PICK THIS

Aurora Plain Panko Bread Crumbs (per ½ cup)

Calories 110
Fat 0g
Sodium 50mg

SKIP THIS

Pastene Plain Bread Crumbs (per ½ cup)

Calories 220
Fat 3g
Sodium 800mg

HERE'S WHY

Equivalent to 4 slices of Primo Vegetarian pizza from Panago in sodium.

Panko and bread crumbs are interchangeable in cooking. However, panko has a flakier, more delicate texture and is made predominantly from white bread crumbs without the crust. Regular bread crumbs can come from a variety of breads and have a finer texture. While they are fairly similar in terms of calories and fat, these plain bread crumbs have an excessive amount of sodium compared to the panko. Add an extra crunch to your dishes with panko and save on sodium!

Say it ain't dough: raw cookies a risk

FOOD SAFETY

Sweet trend is hot right now but cold batter can do damage

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

Junked Food Co. in Toronto went through pounds of cookie dough this month, serving it like ice cream, in what's being dubbed a new dessert craze. INSTAGRAM/JUNKEDFOODCO

It's every kid's dream: Licking gooey, sugary cookie dough straight off the spoon or beater.

But beware: Trendy restaurants and cafés serving raw cookie dough could be doling out a dangerous dose of harmful bacteria as well. Uncooked or undercooked eggs could be contaminated with salmonella, and E. coli outbreaks have been linked to the consumption of raw flour, too.

So ask about safety before indulging in the nostalgia-fuelled cookie dough craze. Toronto's Junked Food Co., which started scooping cones of cookie dough earlier this month — and is already going through 600 pounds of the sweet stuff every weekend — uses only pasteurized eggs and heats the flour to 160 C to kill any harmful bugs that might be lurking, co-owner Brian McKilligan said.

If you want to be super-safe, the lemon flavour is totally egg-free.

The restaurant also has pints of dough available to take away — so there is the option to, you know, actually bake it and make cookies.

For every dish that gets a thousand likes on Instagram, there are dozens that don't come close but that shouldn't cause you heartburn — even professional chefs get it wrong. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Exploding eggs and horrified friends

KITCHEN CATASTROPHES

Even the best cooks have an off day; here's some of worst

Karon Liu
life@metronews.ca

For every dish that makes it on to Instagram, there are a few duds better off in the garbage.

Last year, while researching the our annual cookie calendar, I spent more than a week trying to make macarons. I over-whipped my first batch and got grainy egg whites, and under-whipped the next, resulting in meringue pancakes. Oven fans blew the fragile tops off another batch, and then while tapping the tray of piped meringues on the table to get rid of air bubbles, I missed the table altogether. Needless to say, they never made it onto Instagram.

But hey, no one is perfect and at least I got a good story out of my attempts. With that in mind, we asked readers to share their harrowing tales of home cooking fails. Here are the best of the worst.

1 Zombie Sushi
(Danny Bernard, 30)
My friends and I take turns making dinners for each other monthly. I like sushi so I thought I would give it a go. I thought I didn't need short (grain) rice and it turns out the avocado wasn't ripe enough. "Looks like a dead body thrown in a tarp," one of my friends commented. "Rice looks like maggots." My friends luckily rain-checked me. I learned from this, and the next week I got it together ... mostly.

2 Taste (and glass) explosion
(Edythe Yee, 46)
There was a glass explosion in my friend's kitchen when we were frying a bunch of food last year. The bowl was filled with glaze and was sitting on the counter in the kitchen next to my sour cream lemon cake doughnuts and my sour cherry fritter batter, both waiting their turn in the deep fryer, which was outside. We heard a loud bang and when we went to investigate, we saw glass shards everywhere: all over the counter, the next counter over, and all over the floor. We had to toss all the doughnuts, batter and the other glaze. The glaze was sitting by itself at room temperature in an air-conditioned kitchen so we don't know why it randomly exploded. No one got hurt but we were very, very sad.

3 Thanks for the endorsement
(Corrie Pollock, 30)
I just had to send you a photo of the "60-second microwave cookie" I attempted a while ago. Not pictured: a cookie explosion all over the microwave's ceiling. This didn't stop me from trying your (microwave) mug cake recipe, which turned out absolutely perfect.

4 Slippery pie
(Susan Gow, 72)
In 1963, I left Quebec City and went to Soest, Germany, as a new bride with my husband who was serving in the Canadian army as part of the NATO forces. My new home was a small flat in a shared German home with not much kitchen equipment. I had a two-burner portable stove top and a steel-framed "glass box" for a stove that sat on a small wooden table with the burner. No matter, I had my trusty Fannie Farmer Cookbook with me that I received as a wedding present. I made a beautiful apple pie and proudly served it to my husband. He bit into it, looked puzzled, but polished it off in no time. "Wow," he gasped, "That was some slippery pie. How did you make it? I could hardly keep it on my fork." To my horror I realized I read the recipe wrong. Instead of adding vegetable shortening, lard, or butter I added all three ingredients. All these years later, I still get teased about the slippery pie.

5 Mother knows best
(Nicole Willett, 38)
Bam! Then another. Bam! Bam! I counted a dozen. "Hide!" my mom said. A few minutes later, she grabbed a baseball bat and with a "follow me" we ventured into the kitchen. I was 8 years old when I learned that when you boil eggs and all the water evaporates, they explode and sound like a gunshot. Mom put the bat down and we spent the evening scraping splattered egg from the ceiling, floor, cabinets and stove. My mom was notorious for her kitchen fails. The pizza delivery place knew her voice and order by memory. A few years before she passed, she left me with a prized possession: A Betty Crocker cookbook with the following inscription:

Merry Christmas! Since you don't have a person to refer to when it comes to cooking, I thought you would use this! xoxo Mom.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Wyclef Jean is "appalled" with the LAPD. AP/FILE

Wyclef Jean in mistaken arrest row

MUSIC

Singer releases video of police detaining him in Hollywood

Andrew Fifield
Metro | Toronto

Los Angeles County sheriff's officials are apologizing to Grammy-winning singer Wyclef Jean who was detained after being mistaken for an armed robbery suspect.

Sheriff's officials said in a statement Tuesday afternoon that while they apologize for the inconvenience, Jean was lawfully stopped by deputies looking for a violent armed robber whose victims described a similar vehicle and article of clothing

The 47-year-old R&B star tweeted a video of him in handcuffs while flashing squad car lights illuminated him and the arresting officers early Tuesday.

"That's what's going on right now with Wyclef in L.A. right now," he says to the camera. "The LAPD have me in cuffs for absolutely nothing."

The singer adds he was returning home from a recording studio.

In later tweets, the Haitian-born artist says he was not given a chance to explain the situation before he was handcuffed.

"I was asked by the police to put my hands up, then I was told 'do not move,'" he wrote. I was instantly handcuffed before being asked to identify myself.

> **I said my name and told them they have the wrong person.**
> Wyclef Jean

"I said my name and told them they have (the) wrong person. They proceeded to ignore me and I was treated like a criminal until other police showed up and pointed they had the wrong person."

Jean said on Twitter that he was "appalled at this behaviour."

A man believed to be the correct suspect was later arrested. Police say that a gun and a stolen wallet were recovered.

WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEE WYCLEF'S VIDEO
metronews.ca

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Comrades' true heroism is their modesty

THE SHOW: Band of Brothers, Episode 7 (HBO)
THE MOMENT: "I withstood it well, but..."

The World War II US paratroopers of Easy Company just fought a hellish winter battle in Bastogne, Belgium — freezing cold, constant shelling, trees and bodies blown to splinters. One of the real men who endured it, now a white-haired senior, speaks in a to-camera interview.

"You don't have a chance when your friends go down, you know, to really take care of them as you might," he says. As he speaks, his voice thickens. His eyes fill with tears. He has to keep licking his lips because his mouth dries up.

"I withstood it well, but I had a lot of trouble in later life, because those events would come back." A barely contained sob fills his voice as he adds, "And you never forget them."

HBO's older series are available on demand right now, so I was happy to catch up with this 10-parter from Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, based on Stephen Ambrose's book. It took me a few hours to realize its genius: It's not about individual characters. The men who speak to camera aren't identified until the final episode. The actors playing them are hard to tell apart.

But that's the point. This show is about the idea of comradeship — about throwing your person into service for the collective, about making all bodies into one body, about caring for others more than yourself.

That's a rare idea in our age of hyper-individuality, even rarer now than it was in 2001 when this show was made. The modesty is the heroism.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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Bloomberg reports Porsche averaged $17,250 in profit on every car sold in 2016

Finally, an affordable electric

HANDOUT

REVIEW

A low range almost doesn't factor at this price point

Dan Ilika
AutoGuide.com

It's unlikely this is what Hyundai had in mind for the media drive of the all-new Ioniq Electric, the brand's first real attempt at breaking into the slow-selling EV market.

What this entails is an unexpected bout of unseasonably bad weather in Kelowna, B.C. It's not unrealistic to expect temperatures around 8 C this time of year in the Okanagan Valley; instead it's about –5 C and snowing, with some freezing rain mixed in. This poses obvious problems.

Cold weather is the enemy of electric vehicles. From its effects on the battery to the additional energy needed to run the car's climate control system, range is reduced in a big way when the mercury plunges. Yet here we are, ready to set out on a journey intended to cover about 113 kilometres, or a little more than half the estimated range of the Ioniq Electric. Only our tester isn't showing anywhere near the range the car is capable of despite efforts to top up the charge.

Packing a 28-kWh battery, the Hyundai Ioniq Electric is good for an estimated 200 km of driving. That's barely better than the aging Nissan Leaf (172 km), which was introduced way back in 2010, and almost half the range of the all-new Chevrolet Bolt (383 km), though the Bolt's battery boasts twice the capacity.

Setting out for our drive from a snow-covered parking lot, the car's estimated range of about 169 km is looming.

Parlaying power from the battery to the front wheels is an electric motor and a single-speed reduction gear transmission, while a set of regenerative brakes can send energy back to the battery. While the Ioniq Electric is hampered somewhat by the additional heft of its beefy battery, the torque from the electric motor helps to disguise it and makes the car feel nimble.

While it tends to float over uneven pavement like an old Lincoln thanks to its low center of gravity created by the battery, the car features taut and responsive steering that's superior to its gas-electric sibling, the Ioniq Hybrid. It isn't, however, quite as sure-footed on slippery surfaces.

The Ioniq Electric may not compare to the likes of the Chevy Bolt — or the pending Tesla Model 3 — when it comes to range, but it has it beat when it comes to price. Base models are expected to start at $35,000, with a fully loaded version to cost somewhere in the neighborhood of $42,000. That poses an interesting value proposition when compared to virtually other EVs on the market.

Ending our drive, our tester is still showing nearly 80 km of range remaining — no small feat. Hyundai's first all-electric offering impresses, even with the cold winter weather rearing its efficiency-sapping head.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 HYUNDAI IONIQ ELECTRIC REVIEW

THE BASICS

Engine: Single motor drive unit
Output: 120 horsepower, 215 pound-feet of torque
Transmission: Single-speed reduction gear
Battery size: 28 kWh
Estimated range: 200 kilometres
Price: Starts at $35,000 (est.) (before available incentives)

LOVE IT

- Familiar driving feel
- Cabin layout
- Competitive pricing

LEAVE IT

- Quirky design
- Relatively small battery
- Adjustable brake regeneration

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STANDARD FEATURES:

- HEATED FRONT SEATS
- REARVIEW MONITOR
- LED DAYTIME RUNNING LIGHTS AND TAILLIGHTS
- XTRONIC® TRANSMISSION

SL model shown*

SR model shown*

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PAYMENT INCLUDES $2,250 TOTAL BONUS CASH

INCLUDES:

- 6,000 LBS MAXIMUM TOWING
- REARVIEW MONITOR
- LED DAYTIME RUNNING LIGHTS
- 7-PASSENGER CAPACITY

Platinum model shown*

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Offers available from March 21 – 25, 2017. Total Bonus Cash consists of a combination of My Choice Bonus Cash (available between March 1 and March 31) and 5 Day Bonus Cash (available only between March 21 and March 25). [1]Nissan Parts and Accessories credit ("credit") is available on select new and previously unregistered 2017 Nissan models purchased/leased/financed and delivered between March 1, 2017 and March 31, 2017. Maximum $4,000 credit available on 2017 Titan models only. Other models qualify for lesser credit amounts as follows: $1,300 (2017 Micra, Versa Note)//$1,625 (2017 Altima, Sentra)//$1,950 (2017 Maxima, Juke, Rogue, Murano, Pathfinder, Armada). Credit consists of a discount that can only be used at the time of initial purchase/lease/finance and applied towards the purchase of Nissan accessories from an authorized Nissan dealer. Credit cannot be used towards the costs of installation of Nissan accessories and cannot be deducted from the negotiated selling price of the vehicle. Credit will be deducted from the price of Nissan accessories after taxes. Any unused portion of this credit will not be refunded and may not be banked for future use. Customer is responsible for all costs not otherwise covered by credit. Credit has no cash surrender value and cannot be applied to past transactions. [2]My Choice Bonus of $3,500/$1,500/$1,250/$1,500/$1,500/$1,000 applicable to customers who lease, finance or purchase any 2017 Titan/2017 Rogue/2017 Sentra/2017 Pathfinder/2017 Murano/2017 Micra. [3]5 Day Bonus Cash discount of $1,000/$750/$500/$500/$250/$250 will be deducted from the negotiated selling price before tax and is applicable when cash purchasing, leasing or financing a new 2017 Titan/2017 Pathfinder/2017 Rogue/2017 Sentra/2017 Micra/2017 Versa Note between March 21, 2017 and March 25, 2017. Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis, for advertising purposes only. *Representative monthly lease offer based on a new 2017 Rogue S FWD/2017 Sentra SV CVT Style Package/2017 Pathfinder S 4X2 at 0.99%/0.99%/1.99% lease APR for 39/39/39 months equals monthly payments of $241/$201/$368 with $1,495/$995/$1,495 down payment, and $0 security deposit. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $10,895/$8,850/$15,841. Lease Cash of $0/$1,760/$0 is included in the advertised offer. Offers include Total Bonus Cash of $2,000/$1,750/$2,250. ▲Models shown $38,024/$28,029/$50,404 selling price for a new 2017 Rogue SL Platinum (PL00)/2017 Sentra SR Turbo CVT Premium (RL00)/2017 Pathfinder Platinum (AA00).All Pricing includes Freight and PDE charges ($1,795/$1,600/$1,795) air-conditioning levy ($100), applicable fees, manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Offers are available on approved credit through NCF. Offers are subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your participating Nissan retailer for complete details. Certain conditions apply. See your participating Nissan dealer or visit Choosenissan.ca for details. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. ©2017 Nissan Canada Inc.

That electric feel becoming luxury

MCLAREN

Lighten up

It's barely been a week since McLaren's newest supercar debuted and there's already talks of a hotter version.

The McLaren 720S was officially unveiled at the 2017 Geneva Motor Show. But it's probably less of a surprise that a McLaren 720S LT is in the pipeline, especially considering other exotic automakers are focusing on lighter, more hardcore versions like the Lamborghini Huracan Performante that set a record at the Nurburgring. Ferrari is also working on a track-oriented version of the 488. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAYENNE

High-end hybrid

The new Porsche Panamera introduced us to the Turbo S E-Hybrid powertain which is set to spread to at least on more model. Porsche confirmed that the Cayenne will be adopting the new hybrid powertrain, which has a total system output of 680 horsepower and 628 pound-feet of torque. It is comprised of a turbocharged 4.0-liter V8 paired to an electric motor.

With its all-electric Mission E sports car on the horizon and the rise of electrification across its lineup, Porsche wants to push the idea of an electrified top-trim model. STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM

LOTUS ELISE

Punching above its weight

The Lotus Elise has received minor updates for 2017, including the addition of an all-new, ultra lightweight Elise Sprint model variant.

The Sprint trim line can be specified with Elise Sport and Elise Sport 220 models and will shave 90 pounds from the outgoing Elise Sport.

Following Lotus founder Colin Chapman's famous mantra of "simplify and add lightness," the Elise Sport features a lightweight lithium ion battery that saves 20 lbs, lightweight alloy wheels saving 11 lbs and carbon fiber race seats saving 13.2 lbs.

Other standard lightweight components on the Elise Sprint means it tips the scales at 1,759 lbs dry.

SAM MCEACHERN/AUTOGUIDE.COM

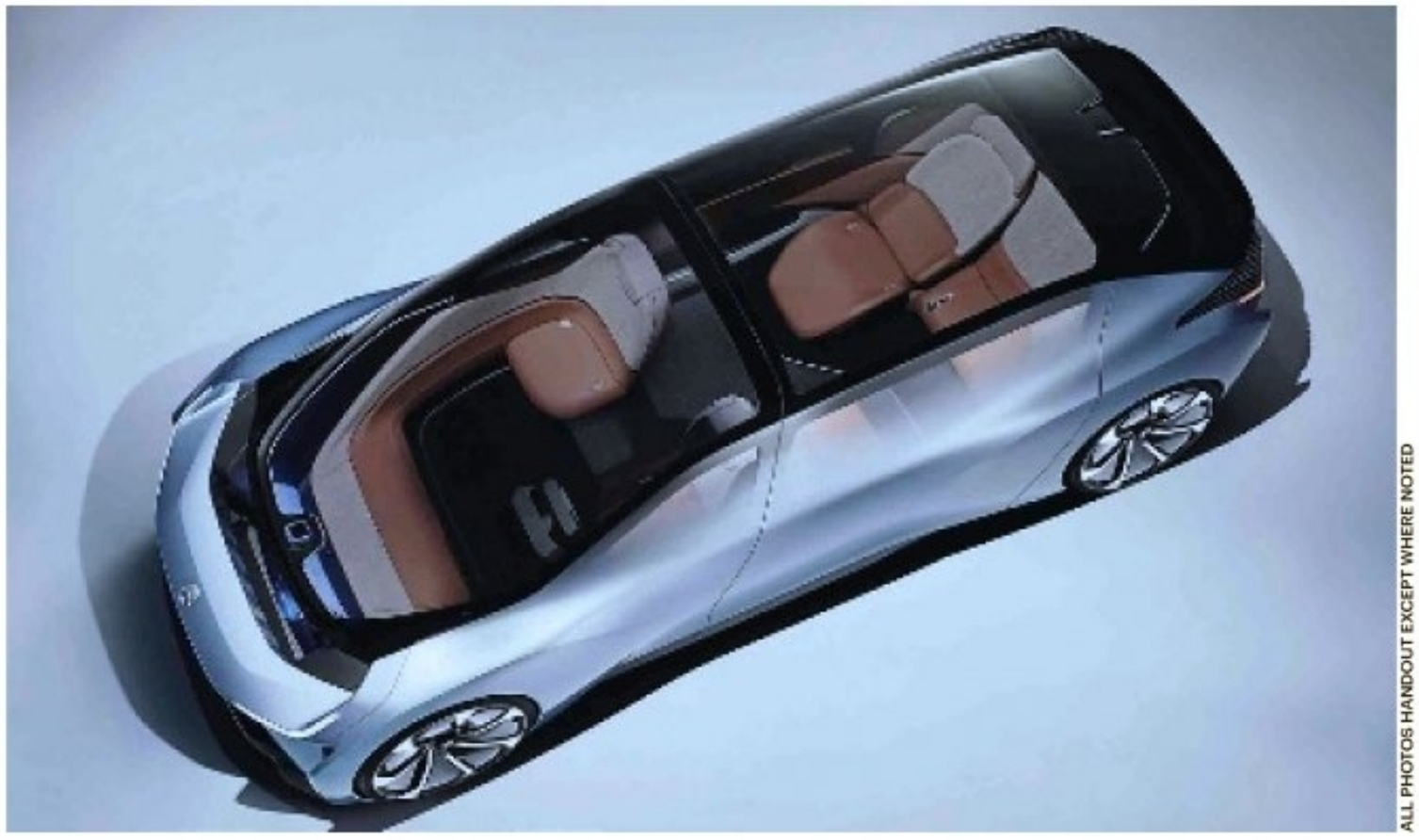
NIO EVE

Can I copy your homework?

A Chinese automaker has unveiled a new EV, but Faraday Future is quick to point out the similarities.

Chinese automaker NIO made headlines earlier this year with its admittedly stunning EP9 supercar. But the NIO EP9 is a halo model for the brand. That's where the EVE Concept comes in, as a more consumer-friendly offering that the automaker hopes to put into production by 2020.

Presented at SXSW, the company says it's designed to be an autonomous "digital companion" with an artificial intelligence engine called NOMI. If you think the EVE Concept looks familiar, well Faraday Future didn't hesitate to call the automaker out since it unveiled its FF 91 earlier this year. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM



ALL PHOTOS HANDOUT EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

AUTO NEWS

BMW wants to sell fully self-driving cars by 2021

BMW is laying out a timeline for its self-driving cars, planning to have them on the road by 2021.

"We are on the way to deliver a car in 2021 with level 3, 4 and 5," said Elmar Fickenstein, BMW's senior vice president for autonomous driving.

Level three autonomy still requires the driver to be focused on control of the vehicle, while levels four and five are best described as fully self-driving. The jump from level three to four will be the hardest, as it also means that responsibility is placed on the vehicle's systems, not the driver. Tech companies Intel and Mobileye are working on the brains of the system while BMW has been tasked with driving control. STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM

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HONDA

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7 WEIRDEST THINGS AUTOMAKERS MAKE

Funky concept cars aren't the weirdest things automakers create. Considering how much technology goes into designing, developing and manufacturing a vehicle, it's no surprise automakers dabble in other markets. But sometimes automakers put their name on lifestyle products that seem a bit out there. Here are the seven weirdest things automakers make that aren't cars. **JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM**

1 Lexus Hoverboard

It's the weirdest thing an automaker makes that isn't a car and also the most awesome thing an automaker makes that isn't a car. Lexus created a hoverboard called "Slide" and it actually works like how you would imagine a hoverboard should. Its design features the iconic Lexus spindle grille signature shape and uses materials found in various Lexus vehicles, including natural bamboo. Now if only Lexus could get this into the hands of consumers at a reasonable price; it might actually become more popular than its cars.

2 Aston Martin Condo Tower

Now there's a condo fit for James Bond. The British automaker best known for supplying 007's supercars is branching out and developing a 66-story tower called the Aston Martin Residences in downtown Miami, Fla. Aston Martin is partnering with wealthy Argentine developers on the project and it marks the first time the company has been involved with real estate. A team from Aston Martin will actually design the building's common areas and amenities, including lobbies, fitness centers and a spa. The project was announced in October 2016 and has a current completion date of 2021.

ALL PHOTOS HANDOUT

3 Lexus Sport Yacht Concept

Lexus isn't the only automaker that has collaborated on a yacht, but the Japanese automaker isn't as prestigious of a brand as say, Mercedes-AMG or Bugatti. What makes the Lexus Sport Yacht Concept so weird is that it actually employs a pair of Lexus V8 engines and styling was done by the Lexus Design Center in Toyota City, Japan. The idea actually came to life after Toyota president Akio Toyoda visited the Toyota Marine Department to spend several days on the water driving their new Ponam range of premium yachts. The company has no plans of producing the yacht for general consumers, but a bespoke one-off was done with help from the Marquis-Carver Yacht Group of Pulaski, Wisconsin.

4 Bugatti Hookah

Most recently, Bugatti unveiled a wildly luxurious yacht built in collaboration with Palmer Johnson. But before that, the French automaker partnered up with luxury shisha pipe maker Desvall to create a $100,000 hookah pipe in 2013. Bugatti by Desvall is handmade in Sweden and features a pure titanium frame wrapped in special edition carbon fiber outer casing with hand sewn leather details. Production is limited to just 150 units and we wouldn't be surprised if it was all sold out by now.

5 BMW Bobsled

Not only did BMW craft a bobsled, it made one that carried Team USA to a Winter Olympics victory at Sochi. It was the first time Team USA took home a medal in two-man bobsledding since 1952, finishing third for the bronze medal. BMW subsidiary Designworks helped with the project, and the result was a bobsled made out of carbon fiber and taking on the sleek shape you'd find on a Formula 1 car. Now, the weight of an Olympic bobsled is fixed at 374 pounds, but engineers were able to distribute the weight cleverly, shifting the center of gravity for better steering. Sound familiar? It's not too far from how BMW approaches its cars. The German automaker reportedly spent $24-million on the project, but that's a small price to pay for an Olympic medal.

6 Lamborghini Speaker

The Ixoost EsaVox speaker is made from authentic parts, with an original Lamborghini exhaust taking center stage. The styling features sharp lines and edges as well as a power switch shaped like the push button starter. The housing is constructed from wood and carbon fibre. And like exotic Lamborghini sports cars, the EsaVox is available in black, orange, red and yellow. It also costs over $21,000.

7 Audi R18 Chair

Built by Clemens Weisshaar and Reed Kram in collaboration with Audi's Lightweight Design Center is the Audi R18 chair. The multi-material space frame is made from carbon composites, carbon micro-sandwich and high-strength aluminum to weigh just 4.85 pounds.

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WITH $2,000 JEEP LOYALTY CASH■

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Starting From Price for 2017 Grand Cherokee Limited shown: $53,540‡

2017 JEEP WRANGLER 2-DOOR SPORT 4X4
THE MOST CAPABLE OFF-ROAD VEHICLE IN ITS CLASS[3]

Starting From Price for 2017 Wrangler 2-Door Sport shown: $30,240‡

$78 WEEKLY FINANCING† @ 3.49% FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

OR CHOOSE 0% FINANCING† FOR 36 MONTHS

2017 JEEP PATRIOT SPORT 4X2 – THE MOST AFFORDABLE SUV IN CANADA[4]

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WITH
- Hands-free communication with Bluetooth® & SiriusXM™ satellite radio • Remote start system
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Starting From Price for 2017 Patriot High Altitude shown: $30,830‡

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Wise customers read the fine print: †, ◊, ††, ‡, ■, ➤, ✦, ≈, § The Power of Zero Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected in-stock new and unused models purchased/leased from participating retailers on or after March 1, 2017. Offers subject to change and may be extended or changed without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,795), air-conditioning charge (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. †0% purchase financing for 36/72 months available on select new models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: $30,000 financed at 0% for 36/72 months equals 78/156 bi-weekly payments of $385/$192, a total obligation of $30,000 and $0 cost of financing. ◊$5,000 in Total Discounts is available on 2017 Jeep Patriot High Altitude 4x4 (23G) and consists of $4,500 in Consumer Cash and $500 Jeep Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. ††1.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2017 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2017 Jeep Cherokee North FWD (24J)/2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo (32E) with a Purchase Price of $31,980/$41,054 with a $0 down payment, financed at 1.49% for 96 months equals 416 weekly payments of $82/$99 with a cost of borrowing of $1,948.44/$2,376.45 and a total obligation of $33,928.44/$41,381.45. ‡3.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2017 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2017 Jeep Wrangler 2-door Sport 4x4 (23B)/2017 Jeep Patriot Sport 4x2 (25C) with a Purchase Price of $28,325/$17,446 with a $0 down payment, financed at 3.49% for 96 months equals 416 weekly payments of $78/$48 with a cost of borrowing of $4,147.37/$2,554.46 and a total obligation of $32,472.37/$20,000.46. ■Jeep Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash up to $2,000 is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2017 Jeep Compass (excludes base 26D, 2GD, 25D & 28D models), Patriot (excludes base 26D, 2GD, 25D & 28D models), Cherokee (excludes all Sport models), Renegade or Grand Cherokee and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: Current owners/lessees of a Jeep or any other manufacturer's CUV or SUV. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before March 1, 2017. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. Limit one bonus cash offer up to $2,000 per eligible transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ➤0% lease financing for 51 months available through SCI Lease Corp. to qualified customers on applicable new 2017 models at participating retailers. SCI provides all credit approval, funding and leasing services. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2017 Jeep Cherokee Laredo (23E) with a purchase price of $41,376 leased at 0% for 51 months with a $500 security deposit, $3,589 down payment and first month's payment due at lease inception equals 51 monthly payments of $389 with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $24,017.05. Kilometre allowance of 18,000/year. Cost of $0.16 per excess kilometre plus applicable taxes at lease termination. See your retailer for complete details. ✦Consumer Cash is deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Bonus Cash is deducted after taxes. ≈Non-prime financing available on select models on approved credit. 4.99%/6.99% financing available on select 2017 models. Financing examples: Purchase Price of $30,000 with a $1,000 down payment, financed at 4.99%/6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $189/$202 with a cost of borrowing of $5,416.76/$7,753.86 and a total finance obligation of $34,416.76/$36,753.86. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. §Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. Certain features of vehicles shown – e.g., interior colour – may not be offered on all models. See retailer for details. [1]Based on WardsAuto Middle Cross Utility segmentation. Best-in-class capability based on Jeep Cherokee offering 2 speed power transfer unit (PTU) with rear locking axle, exclusive Jeep Selec-Terrain with 5 settings (including rock), and industry first: fully disconnecting drive-line, best-in-class towing (excluding 7-8 passenger vehicles), approach angle, departure angle, ramp breakover angle. [2]Jeep Grand Cherokee has received more awards over its lifetime than any other SUV. [3]Capability based on approach angle, departure angle, breakover angle, ground clearance and water fording. [4]Based on WardsAuto Sport and Cross Utility segmentations and MSRP of base models. [5]Most Capable Compact SUV Ever is based on historical U.S. unibody C-SUV segment competitors as identified by 2016 CY WardsAuto Small Cross/Utility Vehicle SUV segment (years 1985-2017). 4x4 capability based on Jeep Compact SUV offering low range power transfer unit (PTU) with 20:1 crawl ratio, low range 4x4 capability. This claim excludes all FCA vehicles. ΔBased on total sales in 2015CY in all SUV segments combined as defined by FCA Canada Inc. *Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC used under license by FCA Canada Inc. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

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Put the brakes on these five bad habits

ETIQUETTE

Kick these habits to make the roads safer for everyone

Louis MacPherson
AutoGuide.com

Road warrior MacPherson shares the five worst chronic driving habits he's observed in his time behind the wheel. ISTOCK

For many, the automobile is the paragon of independence. Behind the wheel, a driver is a slave to no one. Except that's not always true.

Motorists are slaves to their own driving shortcomings as well as the bad habits of others on the road.

Having driven more than 2.5 million miles before my 50th birthday, I have witnessed more than my fair share of bad driving. My experience has shown me there are five main behaviours that put ourselves and others at risk on the roads.

Being unaware of your surroundings

Without question, the main issue is an unawareness of one's surroundings — from this all else flows. Observe the number of drivers who look up only to discover a car carrier, garbage truck, bus, etc. has magically appeared in their sightline, despite having been easily within view from several hundred metres away.

Anyone who has spent a logistics career on the road will confirm that the more a driver focuses on the horizon, the more anticipatory their driving becomes. Being aware negates the need for excessively hard braking, erratic lane changes and the resultant consequences that drive everyone on the road crazy.

Improper braking

Most people do not know how to brake. If their gaze falls only as far as the hood ornament on their car, I can confidently predict how they'll brake — suddenly — and how often they'll need to have brakes and rotors replaced or serviced. Not to mention the high probability that they'll inevitably end up in a rear-end collision.

The poorer your grasp of the horizon, the poorer and more erratic your braking and the greater the likelihood that another driver will rear end you. Brake smoothly and with moderation.

Not using turn signals

People who don't use turn signals are not lazy, they're indifferent — which is worse. In other aspects of life, we communicate our intentions so why should the turn signal be different?

In their most basic use, they are a courtesy. To use them is so simple, yet it's an action that is universally recognized as charitable, prudent and infinitely safer.

The use of turn signals are, perhaps, the greatest automotive example of reciprocity. Crossing any lane without signaling is not only dangerous, it is the equivalent of trespassing.

Bad turn signal courtesy

This behaviour is somewhat a continuance of turn signal courtesy. Drivers should always signal first (and with adequate notice), brake second.

All three previous examples of poor driver etiquette collide with alarming consequences for the driver behind you caught off guard. Once again, you are telegraphing your intentions to those on the road who may or may not be paying attention.

Giving as much advanced notice as possible will mitigate the need for drivers behind you to risk sudden lane changes or slam on the breaks.

Not turning into your correct lane

Perhaps nothing impedes the flow of traffic more at an intersection than people who do not turn into the correct lane. To watch two automobiles, each coming from opposing directions, harmoniously turn into their correct lane is a thing of breathtaking beauty. It is automotive ballet.

The conclusion is clear. The more we aspire and commit to being disciplined drivers, the more we make driving safer and more pleasurable for everyone.

NO FUN

New report confirms that car buyers are boring people

White has been the best selling shade since 2011 and last year it accounted for 37 per cent of vehicle sales globally. ISTOCK

Dan Ilika
AutoGuide.com

Apparently the auto market is increasingly looking like an eight-bit greyscale, with the vast majority of new vehicles sold these days finished in a less-than-exciting quartet of colours.

That's according to a report from paint supplier Axalta, which found that an astonishing 77 per cent of cars, trucks and SUVs sold in 2016 were finished in white, silver, grey and black. If there ever was a barometer of just how boring car-buyers have become this is it.

White led the way at 37 per cent of global sales, trailed by black at 18 per cent. Grey and silver followed at 11 per cent each. Worse still, 2016 marked the sixth consecutive year white was the No. 1 seller, which overtook silver in 2011. Line them all up and it's like our parking lots are stuck in the movie Pleasantville. (If you understand this obscure reference then you will understand how sad the situation is.)

The picture is a slightly less bleak one in North America, with red (10 per cent) and blue (eight per cent) adding a splash of colour to the mix, though white, black, grey and silver still led the way on the continent by a landslide.

There is, however, some reprieve on the horizon. Axalta says "colourful hues are tinting traditional neutral colors" to bring colour back into vogue. Here's to a slightly darker shade of burnt orange coming soon to a dealer near you.

Outdated technology inspiring innovation

HYUNDAI

Patent filed for innovative three-cylinder engine

Jason Siu
AutoGuide.com

The Korean automaker has plans for a combined-cycle combustion engine that will improve fuel efficiency. HANDOUT

Hyundai has filed a patent for a three-cylinder engine with some very interesting technology.

The patent application was filed on November 30, 2015 but was published on March 16, 2017. In it, the Korean automaker details a three-cylinder engine where two of the cylinders perform four-cycle combustion while the remaining cylinder is two-cycle combustion. Essentially it's a combined-cycle combustion engine in hopes of improving fuel efficiency, among other things.

"However, since the three-cylinder engine has structural characteristics in which bores, strokes, and valve timings of the respective cylinders are equal to one another, the engine generates noise and vibration compared to typical four or more cylinder engines," the patent application says. "To resolve this, it is necessary to devise a design technique for three-cylinder engines in which a three-cylinder engine combines a four-cycle with a two-cycle. In addition, since engine performance (for example, power and torque) is deteriorated when this combined cycle engine is controlled, merchantable quality of the engine may be lowered."

It appears Hyundai is looking to solve the deterioration by combining two- and four-cycle cylinders. Since the bore, stroke and valve timing of the two-cycle cylinder can differ from the four-cycle cylinder, the same power is generated in the two- and four-cycle cylinders, preventing engine performance from dropping when the three-cylinder engine is operated under the combined cycles. It also maintains the advantages of a three-cylinder engine, mainly its compact structure and high fuel efficiency.

Expect to see more three-cylinder engines being developed by automakers in the coming years. The new Ford Fiesta ST for example, uses a three-cylinder EcoBoost engine to generate 200 horsepower and 214 pound-feet of torque.

TECHNOLOGY

Ford's Pedestrian Detection system gets night vision

Ford has improved its Pedestrian Detection technology so that it now works at night.

According to a new poll commissioned by Ford, night blindness and fear of hitting someone top night-time driving fears and the American automaker is hoping its latest technology helps alleviate those worries. The new technology is designed to detect pedestrians at night and then automatically apply the brakes if the driver does not respond to initial warnings.

In order to get Pedestrian Detection to work at night for the first time, the development team worked at night by sending life-sized dummies into the path of vehicles on closed tracks. The system was also tested on public roads in busy cities including Paris and Amsterdam.

So how does it all work? Basically, the system processes information from a radar located in the bumper and a windshield-mounted camera through a database of "pedestrian shapes" to distinguish people from objects like road signs and trees. According to Ford, the camera delivers over 30 snapshots every second, and the video live feed and wide viewing angle allows the system to see pedestrians, even in low-light conditions.

In North America, the technology will first debut on the 2018 Ford F-150 and Ford Mustang models, while Europeans will first see it on the next-generation Ford Fiesta that debuted at the 2017 Geneva Motor Show last week.

"We know some drivers find hitting the road at night a stressful experience. Especially driving in towns and cities, pedestrians — sometimes distracted by mobiles — can without warning step into the road, leaving even alert drivers very little time to avoid an accident," said Gregor Allexi, active safety engineer, Ford of Europe. "Day and night, Pedestrian Detection is designed to help identify people already in — or about to step into — the road ahead."

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

metro SPORTS

"The Giants will always be my family": Barry Bonds is back with San Francisco as a special adviser

Raps show fight in comeback victory

NBA

Dinos beat Bulls for first time since 2013

The Toronto Raptors have finally beaten the Chicago Bulls.

DeMar DeRozan poured in 42 points as the Raptors rallied on a night marred by fisticuffs to beat Chicago 122-120 in overtime after a fierce fourth-quarter comeback on Tuesday.

It was Toronto's first victory over Chicago in a dozen games, a streak of futility that stretched back to Dec. 31 of 2013.

Cory Joseph added 19 points, while P.J. Tucker had eight points to go with 12 rebounds for the Raptors (42-29), who've won three in a row.

Jimmy Butler led the Bulls (33-38) with 37 points, while Rajon Rondo added 24.

Serge Ibaka had 16 points before being ejected for exchanging punches with Chicago's Robin Lopez. Lopez, who was also ejected, swung first and Ibaka responded while players on both teams tried to separate them. Raptors assistant coach Jamaal Magloire and Nikola Mirotic received matching technicals in the brouhaha.

Ibaka and Lopez appeared to have words before Lopez swatted the ball away from the Raptors' big man, and the scuffle ensued. The penalty for a fighting technical is a fine up to $50,000 and/or suspension.

The Raptors never led until overtime and trailed by as many as 16 points. The Bulls took a 94-79 lead into the fourth quarter.

Toronto finally pulled even during a thrilling stretch that started with some solid defence and a deft DeRozan steal off an unknowing Rondo, and included back-to-back three-pointers by Tucker.

The Raptors trailed by four points when DeRozan responded with a pair of baskets, and a Butler miss sent the game into overtime tied at 113-113.

A 16-foot turnaround jumper by DeRozan, who also had eight assists and seven boards, and a putback by Patrick Patterson put the Raptors up by four with 45 seconds left in OT. With the crowd on its feet, Joseph drilled a jumper that all-but clinched the victory with 18 seconds left.

With 11 games left in the regular season, the Raptors continue to fight for a favourable spot in the post-season. They began the night in fourth in the Eastern Conference and just a game behind Washington. The Raptors played their 14th game without all-star guard Kyle Lowry, who could return from wrist surgery to play a game or two before the post-season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raptors forward Serge Ibaka takes a swing at Bulls centre Robin Lopez during a scuffle on Tuesday night. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

TUESDAY At ACC

122	120
RAPTORS	BULLS

OBITUARY

Jerry Krause, the Chicago Bulls' general manager during their 1990s dynasty that saw them capture six NBA championships with Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen leading the way, has died. He was 77. The Bulls confirmed his death on Tuesday.

MLB

Ceciliani gives Jays left-field alternative

Darrell Ceciliani continues to hit — and continues to be an intriguing storyline — in Blue Jays spring training.

The outfielder had another hit in the Jays' 5-2 win over Baltimore in Sarasota Tuesday.

Ceciliani's single Tuesday gave him 13 hits for the spring, second on the team only to Kevin Pillar's 14.

The solid showing has left Ceciliani squarely as an option for the Jays' unsettled spot in left field.

That job, at the moment, appears to be either headed towards a platoon of Ezequiel Carrera and Melvin Upton Jr., or towards Steve Pearce full time, with Carrera and/or Upton as backups.

But Pearce's final job title is also something of a question mark. Toronto may want him to play first base as well as serve as a designated hitter. The decision there also affects Justin Smoak.

Ceciliani, acquired by the Jays from the Mets in Feb. 2016, saw limited major-league time last season.

"If I get an opportunity now, I've got to run with it," Ceciliani said. "I got a chance last year and I tried to do too much. I got outside of myself, outside of what I can do. If I get another opportunity, I have to be myself, and more importantly, do that and help this team win games."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JOSE'S 'FINE'

- Jose Bautista returned to Blue Jays camp Tuesday from the World Baseball Classic disappointed that his native Dominican Republic was eliminated from the tournament by the USA.
- Jays manager John Gibbons said Bautista, who missed a game last weekend with a stiff back, "is fine."

TORONTO FC

Giovinco returns to training with team

Sebastian Giovinco was back at training with Toronto FC on Tuesday, seemingly as good as new.

The star striker made a quick trip home to Italy last week, pushing up a regularly scheduled appointment after being helped off the field March 11 in Philadelphia with a painful charley horse.

Giovinco did not make the trip to Vancouver for Saturday's 2-0 win over the Whitecaps. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reds bolster backline with veteran Hernandez

Toronto FC added experience to its backline in the form of 12-year veteran Jason Hernandez on Tuesday, the latest piece in what the MLS team hopes will be a championship puzzle.

The 33-year-old centre back, who appeared in 31 games for New York City FC last season, has 285 career MLS regular-season and playoff appearances under his belt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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FINANCIAL

DIVORCE

Marner more than measuring up

NHL

Slow-build philosophy exemplified in speedy forward

BY THE NUMBERS ROOKIE RECORDS FALLING FAST IN TORONTO

103	40	34	9
Leafs rookies have tallied 103 goals, one more than the previous team record set in 1943-44.	Mitch Marner sits one assist shy of Gus Bodnar's team rookie assist record (40).	Auston Matthews is two goals shy of Wendel Clark's team rookie mark of 34.	William Nylander has already tied the team rookie mark for power-play goals with nine.

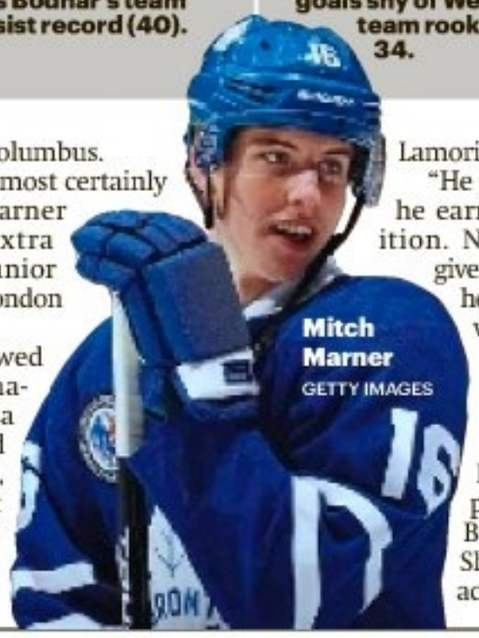
The big question dogging Mitch Marner heading into his rookie season with the Maple Leafs surrounded his slight frame, and whether a skinny 170-pound teenager could play at the NHL level.

Turns out the question needn't have been asked. In fact, Leafs general manager Lou Lamoriello wonders if the premise is all wrong. Maybe Marner's size actually works to his advantage.

"For a small player who is tremendously talented to be successful, they're always playing against bigger players. They get accustomed to doing that," said Lamoriello. "When they get to the next level, it's not something new to them to be playing against bigger players.

"They learn to roll. They learn to adjust. They learn how to take hits. They learn all that at a young age.... Mitch made that adjustment because he's always had to. He's always been the underdog, but he has always succeeded."

Marner leads all NHL rookies with 39 assists and is one point behind Auston Matthews (57 points) for the team scoring lead heading into Wednesday night's game in Columbus.


Mitch Marner
GETTY IMAGES

What almost certainly helped Marner was an extra year in junior with the London Knights.

"It allowed him to mature as a player and as a person, and to get physically stronger," said Lamoriello.

"He came in and he earned the position. Nothing was given to him. He's here and doing well because he deserves to be here."

There's no question the Leafs under president Brendan Shanahan have acted differently. Previous regimes rushed rookies into the lineup while hailing each as some sort of saviour.

Five rookies were held back last year — Marner, William Nylander, Nikita Soshnikov, Connor Brown and Zach Hyman — with two added this year: Matthews via the draft and Nikita Zaitsev as a free agent. All but Marner got to play with and against grown men: Matthews in Switzerland, Zaitsev in the KHL, the rest in the American Hockey League.

"Any time you go to a different level, it helps," said Lamoriello. "It's always better to bring a player up a year later than too soon."

The results have been remarkable from this Leafs rookie crop.

The NHL doesn't track totals for rookie statistics by team. The first-year players on the 1979-80 Oilers racked up 179 goals and 302 assists for 481 points. (The Leafs are at 103 goals and 160 assists for 263 points.)

What all this does is set a very high bar for next season.

"What you have to watch for is the commitment from the player," said Lamoriello. "He has to work harder than he did the prior summer. Sometimes they relax.... But the second time around, they get a little more attention (from the other teams). It's on the player whether the next year is to the level they want it to be. They have to be committed totally. That will determine their success."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CRIME

Suspected jersey thief bragged about swag

The Mexican media executive suspected of stealing Tom Brady's jersey went to the Super Bowl as a working journalist but spent the week collecting selfies and autographs from football greats and boasting to colleagues that he was there as a fan.

Mexican journalists who were in Houston for the game and interacted with Martin Mauricio Ortega, former director of the tabloid La Prensa, told The Associated Press that he brought multiple NFL memorabilia items, including a Kurt Warner jersey he hoped to sell to the former quarterback for thousands of dollars.

Working with U.S. investigators, Mexican authorities obtained a search warrant and recovered the jersey March 12, along with another Brady jersey that disappeared after the 2015 Super Bowl. A helmet belonging to a Denver Broncos player was also discovered, according to NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Wolfpack to get test against top-tier Salford

The Toronto Wolfpack will face the Salford Red Devils of the Super League in the fifth round of the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup.

Salford is where Toronto wants to be — in the top flight of English rugby league. The fledgling Wolfpack, the first transatlantic rugby league side, have entered the third tier of rugby league, looking to win promotion all the way to the Super League. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homan's Team Canada curlers zero in on playoffs

Canada is on the verge of clinching a playoff spot at the world women's curling championship after a pair of wins on Tuesday in Beijing.

Ottawa's Rachel Homan defeated South Korea's EunJung Kim 9-8 and dumped Scotland's Eve Muirhead 8-2 in evening play. The Canadian team of Homan, third Emma Miskew, second Joanne Courtney and lead Lisa Weagle improved to 7-0 in round-robin play.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SWIMMING

Olympic medallist Cochrane retires

Ryan Cochrane is ready for his reinvention.

The 28-year-old from Victoria, a consistent medal producer during a thin time for Canada's swim program, announced his retirement from competition Tuesday. He ends his decorated career with two Olympic medals in the men's 1,500-metre freestyle — a silver and a bronze — and eight world championship medals, the most by a Canadian swimmer.

Ryan Cochrane
GETTY IMAGES

"Thinking of stepping away is the most difficult decision I've ever had to make because it's reinventing yourself, which is both exciting and terrifying at the same time," Cochrane said Tuesday on a conference call.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Refreshing Green Goddess Salad

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The play of creamy and crunchy in this salad makes it irresistible. And its green freshness is almost enough to remind us that spring is coming.

Ready in 15 minutes
Cook time: 5 minutes
Serves 2

Ingredients
- 1/2 avocado
- 3/4 cup buttermilk
- 2 Tbsp chives, basil (you could use tarragon, dill, parsley, etc)
- 3 tsp white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp anchovy paste
- 1 cup scallions
- 6 or 7 stalks of asparagus, trimmed
- 2 or 3 handfuls of Boston or Bibb lettuce
- 1/2 avocado, cubed
- 1/2 English cucumber, sliced
- 1 handful of cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup feta cheese, crumbled

Directions

1. Place the first six ingredients in a blender and whiz away. Have a taste and see if it needs a bit more buttermilk to thin it out or a splash more vinegar to brighten it up.

2. Cook the asparagus in simmering water for 3 to 5 minutes until just tender. Plunge them into ice water to stop them from over cooking. Then drain and chop into bite-sized pieces.

3. Wash and dry all of your other veggies. Tear and arrange your lettuce on a large platter or on each plate.

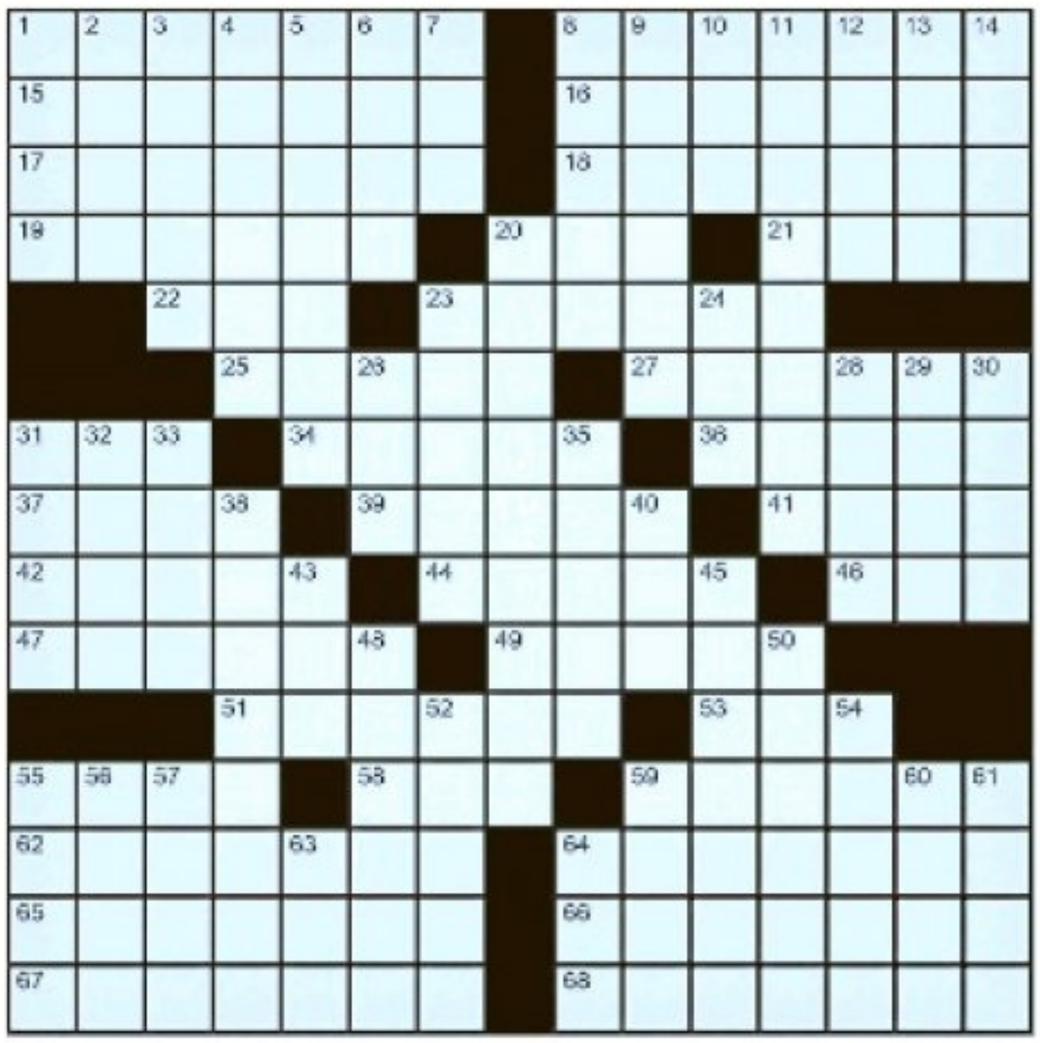
4. Top with avocado, asparagus, cucumber, tomato.

5. Dress your salad and then top with feta.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. 'CANADA' as opposed to 'Canada': 2 wds.
8. Range out West
15. "Yeah, right."
16. Hospital attendant
17. Living-forever being
18. Contempt
19. "I Will Survive" by Gloria __
20. Tarte, in Toronto
21. Trait carrier
22. Snugly-secluded spot
23. Cute little fish of freshwaters
25. Energize
27. Make a mistake: 2 wds.
31. Dry, like champagne
34. Pour __ __ troubled waters
36. Vista
37. Hamlet genre, for short
39. Home furnishings, wallpaper, etc.
41. Prince Harry's sister-in-law
42. Heron variety
44. Beiges
46. Roman sun god
47. Inert
49. Be born as a baby bird
51. Lake __ (1980 Winter Olympics site)
53. '_' __ in Halifax
55. Competent
58. "The Man __ Fell to Earth" (1976)
59. The __ Union
62. It flows in the direction the wind is blowing: 2 wds.
64. Alleviate
65. Grunge rock city in Washington state
66. Vitamin C sources
67. Going-against person
68. Financial field fusions

DOWN
1. Prepare for the trip, pack __
2. Priest of Tibet
3. Architect, Frank __ Wright
4. Mr. Wilde of "The Walls of Jericho" (1948)
5. Melanie's lasered-off tattoo
6. Seckel is a sort
7. Canadian hockey great Mr. Apps
8. Sculptor of The Thinker
9. Get one's bearings
10. DVD-looking items
11. Appalachian Mountains village in New Brunswick
12. Latin hymn, with 'Dies'
13. Tiger Wood's ex-wife
14. Since, in ye olden days
20. The National Ballet of Canada's current production about a famous marionette ...more at #38-Down!
23. Skirmish
24. Alternatives
26. Singer's clip on MuchMusic, for short
28. __ and carrots
29. Do __ others...
30. Apple part
31. Proofer's term
32. Therefore
33. Victoria-born painter Emily
35. U.S.-Canadian airspace protection org.
38. Lumberjack in the show at #20-Down which offers a Canuck spin on the classic tale
40. Groove
43. Pop group, '__ Tuesday
45. Rhodes student at Oxford
48. Dilly-dally
50. 1974: "(You're) __ My Baby" by Paul Anka
52. Jolliness
54. Warfare takeover
55. In addition
56. Horn's honk!
57. Spring
59. Bone-dry
60. Of all time
61. "Guarding __" (1994)
63. The current US President's oldest daughter ...her initials-sharers
64. Movie genre, __-com

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
During conversations with bosses and VIPs today, don't volunteer for anything. Also, don't agree to anything important. (This is for your own protection.)

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Although you are interested in travel plans right now, do not make those plans today. Whatever you start today probably will have to be changed later.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is a good day for important discussions, especially about shared property, inheritances or decisions about how to divide something. Postpone these discussions until Friday. (You will be glad you did.)

Cancer June 22 - July 23
When talking to close friends and partners today, keep things light. This is not a good day to make agreements. Things are just too fuzzy.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Just maintain your usual pace at work today and don't try anything new. Do not volunteer for anything or suggest improvements. Wait until Friday to do this.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a wonderfully creative day for your sign, because your imagination is free-floating! If you work in the arts or in the entertainment world, you will have great ideas

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is the perfect day for hiding at home and relaxing. Do not shop for anything other than food or gas. Just take it easy.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a great day to schmooze and talk to others, because you feel friendly and lighthearted. Enjoy these discussions, but avoid important decisions.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is a poor day for any kind of financial negotiation. Don't spend money professionally. And when it comes to personal spending, spend money on food or gas only.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Today the Moon is in your sign, but it's in a hazy placement. In fact, it's a goofy day that is great for creativity and socializing, but not serious business.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will enjoy being by yourself today, especially if you can find solitude in beautiful surroundings. Basically, it's hard to get really serious about anything.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a great day to talk to others, especially a female companion. Share your hopes and dreams for the future to see what others say.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

8			7			9		
				9				
				1	5			2
7				4		1		
	1	3				8	2	
		4		5				9
9			1	8				
				7				
		6			3			5

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

4	5	7	1	9	6	8	2	3
9	1	2	8	4	3	5	6	7
8	3	6	2	7	5	1	9	4
6	7	3	9	5	8	2	4	1
1	9	8	3	2	4	7	5	6
5	2	4	6	1	7	9	3	8
7	4	9	5	3	1	6	8	2
3	6	5	7	8	2	4	1	9
2	8	1	4	6	9	3	7	5

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